

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 191908
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /015 R

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191908

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FOR TODMAN FROM STEDMAN

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: DAILY ARA SUMMARY - AUGUST 12

1. WHITE HOUSE, DEPARTMENT AND OTHERS NOW DEEPLY ENGAGED IN ASSESSMENT OF HOW TO PROCEED WITH NEXT STEPS ON PANAMA CANAL AND ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT AGREEMENT. PRESIDENT ISSUED BRIEF BUT STRONG STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AT 3:30 THIS AFTER-NOON FOLLOWED BY HALF HOUR Q AND ASESSION WITH PRESS BY BUNKER AND LINOWITZ (TRANSCRIPT COMING VIA WIRELESS). CALLS HAVE BEEN MADE TO KEY FIGURES IN SENATE AND HOUSE AND LETTERS WITH FACT SHEET SENT TO ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. SIMILAR EFFORTS UNDERWAY WITH BUSINESSMEN AND OTHER KEY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, INCLUDING THOSE ACTIVE THIS MATTER
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IN PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. WE ASKING OUR MISSIONS IN HEMISPHERE APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS FOR STATEMENT OF SUPPORT (AND PREPARING FULL SET SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL INCLUDING POSSIBLY TROUBLESOME ISSUE OF INCREASED TOLLS, FOR USE BY EMBASSYS). TREATY DRAFTING EXPECTED TAKE ABOUT TWO

MORE WEEKS. ONLY REMAINING QUESTION OF SUBSTANCE IS WHETHER

IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ADD SPECIFIC PROVISION GIVING U.S. EXCLUSIVE OPTION TO BUILD SECOND, SEA LEVEL CANAL IN EXCHANGE FOR COMMITMENT ON OUR PART TO BUILD IN PANAMA IF WE GO AHEAD WITH IDEA. PRESIDENT HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHERE

WE WOULD PREFER TO HOLD SIGNING AND WHETHER OTHER HEMISPHERIC LEADERS SHOULD BE INVITED. PACE OF ACTIVITY FRANTIC AS YOU CAN IMAGINE. FEELING HERE IS UPBEAT ALTHOUGH HARD STRUGGLE FORSEEN IN SENATE.

2. SENATOR CHURCH RETURNED THE EVENING OF AUGUST 11 FROM HIS TRIP TO CUBA. JUST BEFORE HE LEFT HAVANA, CASTRO TOLD HIM THE SOME 80 (SINGLE SOURCE) AMERICAN CITIZENS AND THEIR CUBAN FAMILIES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO DEPART AT ANY TIME. WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING MORE DETAILS AND MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR THEIR RETURN TO THE U.S. THIS PROMISE ON CASTRO'S PART, IF HONORED (AS WE FULLY EXPECT IT WILL BE), REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT CONCESSION ON THE CUBAN SIDE. ADDITIONALLY, CASTRO INDICATED HE WOULD REVIEW THE CASES OF ALL SEVEN U.S. POLITICAL PRISONERS AND RELEASE ONE BY ONE ALL THOSE HE POSSIBLY COULD.

3. PRELIMINARY WORD RECEIVED FROM STATE AND DOD PERSONNEL IN BRAZIL IS THAT THE AUGUST 10 JBUSMC MEETING IN RIO WENT WELL. THERE WAS NO NOTICEABLE COOLING OF THE ATMOSPHERE (AS SOME PRE-MEETING INTELLIGENCE PREDICTED). AS CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPECTED THE BRAZILIANS INDICATED THEY WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WHICH WE TABLED AT THE MEETING (THIS IS A PROJECT THAT HAS BEEN YEARS ABORNING). THE GENERAL OFFICER PARTICIPANTS FROM WASHINGTON RETURN TODAY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE191908
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JARITCHIE:MLB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770291-0926
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770864/aaaaccac.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0630f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1609372
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAILY ARA SUMMARY - AUGUST 12
TAGS: OVIP
To: SANTIAGO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0630f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009